

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 15 being independent. Claim 17 has been cancelled by this amendment without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

#### ***Claim Objections***

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 15-17 because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to correct these minor informalities.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

#### ***Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11, and 15-17 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hofmann* (US Patent No. 5,677,529). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

In rejecting the independent claims, the Examiner alleges that *Hofmann* teaches an absorption element and cites the reflectors R1-R4 of *Hofmann* for support thereof. Applicants respectfully disagree. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that *Hofmann* fails to teach or suggest a sensor device that includes at least one absorption element that absorbs the light striking the sensor device in such a way that the light power striking the light-sensitive sensor element does not exceed a predetermined value, as recited in, for example, independent claim 1 or a light sensor that includes a reflecting surface that absorbs a portion of a

predetermined amount of light such that the portion of the predetermined amount of light directed towards the sensor element has a value being less than the predetermined threshold, as recited in independent claim 15.

As alluded to above, the Examiner alleges that the reflectors R1-R4 of *Hofmann* supposedly teach an absorption element or the reflecting surface as claimed in independent claims 1 and 15. *Hofmann*, however, contains absolutely no teaching that the reflecting surfaces R1-R4 absorb light, much less that the reflectors R1-R4 absorb light such that light that is then reflected towards the sensor element does not exceed a predetermined threshold/value. In fact, the reflectors R1-R4 of *Hofmann* reflect the light completely and do not absorb any portion thereof. Thus, *Hofmann* cannot anticipate at least independent claims 1 and 15.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11, and 16 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### ***Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103***

The Examiner rejected claims 10, and 12-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofmann in view of West (US Patent No. 5,957,375). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 10, and 12-14 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

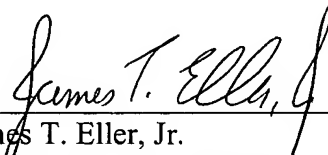
In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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